

Minutes from the Concordia Council on Student Life Meeting Held on Nov. 22, 2013 SGW H-769 10:00 A.M.

Present: Mr. Andrew Woodall (Chair), Ms. Lisa Fortin (Secretary), Mr. Bradley Tucker, Ms. Melanie Drew, Ms. Anna Barrafato, Dr. Cameron Skinner, Ms. Brigitte St-Laurent, Ms. Katrina Caruso, Ms. Alanna Stacey, Ms. Reenaben Patel, Ms. Hannah Hackney, Ms. Yoko Yanagimura, Mr. Vignesh Shankar, Mr. David Thirlwall (representing Ms. Guylaine Beaudry), Ms. Claudie Boujaklian, Ms. Jenessa Speed, Mr. Daniel Houde, Ms. Marie-Josée Allard, Ms. Lorraine Toscano, Mr. Brad Skog.

Absent with Regrets: Ms. Lisa Ostiguy, Mr. Patrick Boivin, Mr. Howard Magonet, Ms. Stephanie Sarik, Ms. Nadine Montour, Mr. Brad Nelson, Ms. Crystal Harrison, Mr. Justin Occhionero.

Absent: Ms. Elizabeth White, Mr. Jacques Lachance, Ms. Sharon Hunter, Ms. Tanya Poletti.

1. Approval of Agenda

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:06 A.M., noting that in the absence of quorum the agenda could not be approved. The Council agreed to continue with a discussion of the agenda items, while noting that no motions could be put forward or voted on. Quorum was obtained at 10:42 A.M. Ms. St-Laurent moved to approve the agenda with the addition of Space Concordia under New Business. Ms. Stacey seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Remarks from the Chair and Introductions

Mr. Woodall noted that there were some new faces on the Council and invited everyone to introduce themselves, noting the members who were absent. The Chair reported that the Convocation ceremonies were a success and everything went very smoothly. He encouraged the Council to watch the ceremonies as they were available online. Mr. Woodall extended his appreciation to all of the Enrolment Services team for ensuring that Convocation was a success.

The Chair reported that Resilience Day organized by Campus Compass on November 7, 2013 had been a success. He also reported that Financial Literacy Week was wrapping up and acknowledged the hard work of all of Student Services who had participated in it.

The Chair announced that Holidays Around the World would be taking place on November the 26th at the Multi-faith Chapel at Loyola Campus. The event would be from 12:00 to 2:00 P.M. and was an opportunity to talk about different faiths

and their food. Ms. Barrafato announced that on December 3rd will mark the United Nations International Day for People with Disabilities. She encouraged Council to visit the outreach table that the Access Centre for Students with Disabilities will have on the Hall mezzanine. Ms. Barrafato stated that she would send the information to the Dean of Students Office to forward to Council members.

Mr. Skog shared that Advancement and Alumni Relations and the Concordia Alumni Association will be hosting the International Student Holiday Party on December 19th, and encouraged Council to promote the event to International Students.

Ms. Allard stated that Hospitality will be organizing two holiday Christmas lunches, one on December 10th at Loyola and December 12th downtown in the LB building. She noted that all are welcome and that more information would be forthcoming in the NOW. Mr. Woodall stated that the Dean of Students Office would spread the word. He also noted that the University would be closing for the holiday period on December 20th.

3. Approval of Minutes from the meetings of October 25, 2013 and November 4, 2013

Ms. Drew moved to approve the minutes from October 25, 2013, seconded by Ms. Caruso.

Ms. Drew also moved to approve the minutes from the November 4th Special Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shankar.

The motions passed unanimously.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes of October 25, 2013 and November 22, 2013

There was no business arising from the minutes of October 25 and November 22, 2013.

5. Reports and items of Information

5.1 Update on CCSL Special Project Funding:

Mr. Woodall reported that the allotment of CCSL funding was complete, noting that the final allocation for \$5,000 and under was \$38,435.00, with \$26,500.00 for over \$5,000. He noted that the total amount of money requested was nearly \$400,000 and that the expectation was that requests for the winter submissions would be similarly high.

Mr. Tucker inquired if there were any reactions or comments from the project applicants, with Mr. Woodall answering that there were some requests for clarification or more information.

The Chair noted his intention to put together an advisory group for the Hive Café project and to speak to the People's Potato regarding the Food Bank. He stated that he will include Ms. Ellie Hummel in on the food bank discussion as she runs the Emergency Food Fund and her input would be useful.

6. New Business

6.1 l'Organe:

Mr. Woodall provided a brief explanation into the background of L'Organe. He reported that l'Organe published their last issue in the winter of 2010 yet students were still paying the fee levy. He noted that there had been two attempts from students to re-vive the magazine with no success. The last coordinator of the magazine, Julien Poirier-Malo, indicated that there was no possibility of reviving the magazine. Mr. Woodall reported that an alumnus had spoken to him expressing the importance of the magazine, to which Mr. Woodall suggested he find some students who were interested and put a plan together. He has not heard back. The Chair observed that it was important to do something about the situation as students have been paying a fee levy of six cents a credit for the past two years with nothing to show for it. He also reported that l'Organe has an external bank account and the Dean of Students office is working with Mr. Poirier-Malo to have the money (approximately \$60,000.00) transferred over to the University. Mr. Woodall noted that the funds from the last two years of fee levies are being held in a separate University account (approximately \$100,000.00).

The Chair stated that there was no official policy for closing a fee levy group but that there was a precedent with the WalkSafe program. In that case, CCSL had made the decision to close it down and had decided on the use of the remaining funds. He noted that the monies collected could be used for other student initiatives, and that it was his hope that CCSL would move to stop the collection of fees for the winter term.

Ms. Drew explained that the WalkSafe Program had been a student lead safety initiative, which provided volunteers who could walk home with students at night. She stated that they had a difficult time finding volunteers and despite the passion and commitment of the leaders, they could not keep it going. Ms. Drew also noted that unlike l'Organe, students were aware of the initiative and that money was being collected. She acknowledged her support for suspending the fee levy as there were many student led initiatives that could benefit from the money. Also arguing that new students should not be paying a fee levy for something that no longer exists.

Mr. Shankar indicated his support for the suspension but questioned if the student body had been made aware that there was an initiative called l'Organe that was looking for leaders. Mr. Woodall responded that there had been no formal announcement. Mr. Shankar stated that he supported a temporary suspension until something could be put together.

Members of Council noted that six cents per credit was high and questioned whether the fee levy should be suspended or cancelled. Mr. Tucker noted that the leadership of l'Organe had asked for the fee levy to be shut down and stated that, for a future discussion, he would like to see the group's by-laws. Mr. Woodall confirmed that there was no formal process on how to close a fee levy but emphasized that the matter should be addressed as an individual had spoken to the Ombuds office about the levy.

Ms. Hackney opinioned that it should be suspended immediately but cautioned against cancellation noting that students should be made aware that there is an opportunity to undertake the publication and possibly rejuvenate it. Mr. Shankar agreed, noting that it is easy to cancel a fee levy but the start-up process is difficult.

Ms. Toscano stated that she supported a suspension of fees as many students experiencing financial difficulties would be upset to learn they were paying this fee. Dr. Skinner said that Council likely had the authority to suspend the collection of the fees, and that he felt it would be sensible to do so for the winter and summer sessions. He noted that if no one came forward with a successful proposal as to how to go forward with the project, then CCSL could move to cancel the fee levy. Dr. Skinner noted that a clear mechanism for evaluation was required and stated that he believed the CSU would be able to look at the disbursement of the money and the conditions under which any new operation would work.

Ms. Barrfatto echoed the sentiment of Council to suspend, noting that clear parameters in regard to the plan, the goals, and the deadline, would need to be established if anyone does come forward to take over the magazine or, if not, for the process of cancellation. Ms. Hackney observed that the CSU may be able to work with the group to supervise budgeting, funding and other related issues. Ms. Stacey suggested a fee awareness campaign to find out if the student body was interested or whether it should be suspended or cancelled. She noted that such a decision would have to be re-approved by the student body.

In response to Dr. Skinner's inquiry if the Council has the authority to suspend or cancel, Mr. Woodall responded that the CCSL Council was the ideal place for the discussion and decision as it is a parity committee.

The Chair thanked the Council for contributing to the discussion, highlighting the main points brought up:

- Whether to cancel or suspend?
- If a time period should be allotted for other students to come forward and rejuvenate the publication?
- If so, then who would manage it and how would the fund be disbursed?
- If no ones come forward or if the plan is not compelling enough, then what happens to the funds?

Dr. Skinner questioned if the Council should consult with the CSU executive on any motion that is passed at CCSL, with Mr. Woodall pointing out that there was one on Council and that he will communicate with them if a motion is passed.

Ms. Caruso stated that she had discussed the matter with some CSU executives who felt that the decision should be with the CSU council who would then take the fee levy issue to a referendum. She noted that in the meantime she would bring the recommendations of the Council to the CSU to discuss. Ms. Caruso stated that one idea would be to survey students regarding the use of the funds. She said that if no one comes forward to take over the publication, the use of the funds would require a great deal of consultation. Ms. Caruso also observed that they may not be ready for a referendum for March and that it may have to be the following year.

Mr. Woodall observed that the majority of Council was in agreement that the fee levy should be suspended, highlighting that it should not be collected for the winter term. He also noted that he was hesitant to wait for a March vote on it while the knowledge that it has been dormant for two years already.

Mr. Shankar stated that since other student associations are required to go through the Dean of Students Office for registration, the office should have some control over groups that aren't functioning.

Mr. Tucker asked Ms. Caruso what the CSU's thoughts were on students still being charged the fee levy even if the last co-ordinator of the magazine suggested its cancellation. Ms. Caruso stated that she was in favour of stopping the collection of the fees for the winter and noted that student groups can always apply for a fee levy with the intention of starting up at a later date.

Ms. Hackney observed that while it is unfortunate that most students at the University were unaware of the magazine, it is important that the last coordinator feels it should be stopped. In agreement with Ms. Caruso, she noted that the fee levy is still valid and that it should first be suspended then, once all possibilities of revitalization have been exhausted, it should be put to a referendum.

Mr. Thirlwall and Ms. Barrafato stated that it was good management to suspend a fee levy for something that is not being used, With Ms. Barrafato noting that the process should be separated into two parts-with the suspension, search for new coordinators or cancellation as the first part, then the second part begin the discussion of what to do with the money.

Ms. Hackney highlighted that a suspension must also include a deadline within which the matter could be resolved. Mr. Shankar suggested to first suspend the levy during which the CSU, GSA, and the Dean of Students Office could announce to the student body that l'Organe was looking for someone to run it and provide a deadline of March or April for proposals. If no one comes forward, it would be up to the Dean of Students Office and the CSU.

Ms. Drew moved the following motion, with Dr. Skinner seconding it.

Be it resolved that the fee levy for l'Organe be suspended for three (3) terms (winter, summer and fall 2014) during which time the CSU and CCSL will work collaboratively to deal with the situation.

The motion passed unanimously.

6. New Business

6.1 Space Concordia

Mr. Woodall reported that CCSL had allotted \$15,000 to Space Concordia for Consat I, the balance owing on the satellite as indicated in their initial budget proposal. The group submitted a new request to the Dean of Students Office stating that, since submitting the proposal, they had funneled monies from the other Space initiatives into Consat I. The result being that Consat 1 now required only \$1,600.00. They would like to use the remaining money for potential travel costs to the European Space Agency and for other projects such as robotics, rocketry and Consat II. The Chair stated that CCSL does not generally fund overseas travel as the funding should be applied to projects that happen on or around campus.

Mr. Shankar opinioned that the group should not receive more funding, observing that they could find funding elsewhere and the money could be applied to other student projects. Mr. Woodall responded that the money had already been allocated to them and that they were not asking for new funds.

Some members of Council were in favour of the request but specified that the money could only be internally allocated to tangible expenses such as Hardware and software, not for travel. Others members expressed the desire to see a clearer budget proposal for the funds, while allowing the group to use the \$1,600 to cover the remaining costs of Consat I.

Ms. Hackney put forth the following motion, seconded by Mr. Shankar.

Be it resolved that Space Concordia provide a clear budget proposal for the remainder of the money allocated from CCSL by December 16, 2013 to be presented at the CCSL meeting on January 17, 2014. Space Concordia can use \$1,600 to cover the balance remaining on Consat I.

The motion passed unanimously.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2014 in L-AD 210 at 10:00 A.M.

8. Termination of Meeting

Mr. Shankar motioned the end of the meeting at 11:22 A.M., with Ms. Yanagimura seconding the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.